

KINGSBRIDGE URBAN
DISTRICT COUNCIL



REPORT

OF THE

Medical Officer of Health

FOR THE YEAR 1938

KINGSBRIDGE .

J. R. GILL & SON, LTD., "GAZETTE" OFFICE

Kingsbridge Urban District Council

Medical Officer of Health's Report for the Year ending Dec. 31st, 1938

Medical Officer of Health—W. C. SMALES,

M.R.C.S., L.R.C.P., D.P.H.

Deputy Medical Officer of Health—W. H. COWPER,

M.B., B.Ch., B.A.O.

Surveyor and Sanitary Inspector—E. GELLENDER, A.R.S.I.

MR. CHAIRMAN, MISS TREEBY AND GENTLEMEN,

I beg to present my Report for the year ending December 31st, 1938.

STATISTICS AND SOCIAL CONDITIONS OF THE AREA.

Area (in acres)—1147½.

Population—The Registrar General's estimate of the resident population—3,084.

Number of inhabited Houses (end of 1938) according to the Rate Books—963.

Rateable Value—£20,591.

Sum represented by a Penny Rate—(estimated) £81 19 4.

The town of Kingsbridge is the market centre of an agricultural and highly attractive country district, and its inhabitants are mainly engaged in commerce. Unemployment has not had any prejudicial effect on the general health of the community.

The social conditions are generally favourable to health and longevity.

VITAL STATISTICS.

Live Births—Total, 27; Male, 20; Female, 7.

Live (Legitimate)—Male, 19; Female, 6.

Live (Illegitimate)—Male, 1; Female, 1.

Birth Rate per 1,000 of the estimated population—8.75.

Still Births—Total, 1; Male, Nil; Female, 1. Rate per 1,000 total (live and still) births—35.7.

Deaths—40. Death Rate per 1,000 of the estimated resident population—12.9.

Adjusted Death Rate—9.28.

Death (from Puerperal Causes)—Nil.

Death Rate of Infants under one year of age. All Infants per 1,000 live births—37.03.

Legitimate Infants per 1,000 Legitimate live births—Nil.

Illegitimate Infants per 1,000 Illegitimate live births—500.00.

Deaths from Cancer (all ages)—11.

Deaths from Measles (all ages)—Nil.

Deaths from Whooping Cough (all ages)—Nil.

Deaths from Diarrhoea (under two years of age)—Nil.

The conditions of occupation and of environment on the whole have not had a prejudicial influence on the general health or mortality.

GENERAL PROVISIONS OF HEALTH SERVICES FOR THE AREA.

The Public Health Officers of the Authority are a Medical Officer of Health (also Medical Officer of Health of the Plympton Rural and Kingsbridge Rural Districts, Assistant County Medical Officer, and School Medical Inspector, Devon County Council).

Deputy Medical Officer of Health (occasional). One full-time Surveyor and Sanitary Inspector.

Laboratory Facilities are provided by the County Council for the examination of milk and water in addition to the usual bacteriological examinations.

Provision of Antitoxin.—Medical men practising in the district can obtain a free supply of Diphtheria Antitoxin and Scarlatinal Serum. Material is also supplied for the immunization of children of the district against Diphtheria free of cost.

The South Hams Cottage Hospital provides 16 beds for patients from Kingsbridge and the surrounding district:—

Men's Ward	...	...	6 beds
Women's Ward	...	...	6 beds
Children's Cots	...	...	2
Private Wards	...	...	2--One bed each

It is supported by voluntary effort.

31 cases were admitted from Kingsbridge and Dodbrooke.

Isolation Hospital.—None in the district, but by arrangement with the Plymouth City Council infectious cases requiring hospital treatment may be sent to Swilly Isolation Hospital,

Plymouth. The Council have also an arrangement with the Paignton Urban District Council by which infectious cases requiring Hospital treatment can be sent to their Isolation Hospital.

The arrangements referred to are provisional only, pending the completion and adoption of a Scheme under Section 63, of the Local Government Act, 1929, for the provision of hospital accommodation for this part of the Administrative County and which Scheme is in the course of preparation.

Nursing in the Home.—The Kingsbridge Nursing Association is doing excellent work.

REPORT FROM NURSE MORRIS.

Year ending September 30th, 1938.

New Patients, Number of	...	...	140
Surgical	...	...	62
Medical	...	...	59
		—	121
Maternity	...	...	5
Midwifery	...	...	14
		—	19
Nursing Visits	...	...	3275
Ante Natal	...	...	153
Casual	...	...	455
		—	3883
Infant Welfares	...	...	17

Midwives.—The Midwives Act is administered by the County Council.

Maternity & Child Welfare Centre.—There is a Centre in Kingsbridge which is open on the 1st and 3rd Tuesdays in each month.

No. of Openings.	Mothers present.	Infants present.	Children 1-5 years.
21	430	152	447

NOTIFIABLE DISEASES (OTHER THAN TUBERCULOSIS) DURING THE YEAR 1938.

Diseases.	Total Cases notified.	Admitted to Hospital.	Deaths.
Scarlet Fever	7	3	0
Measles	•0	0	0
Erysipelas	1	0	0
Ophthalmia Neonatorum	0	0	0
Pneumonia	0	0	0
Cerebro-Spinal Meningitis	1	1	0
	—	—	—
Totals	9	4	0

Hospital Cost—£63 7s. 0d.

Of the three cases of Scarlet Fever admitted to Hospital one proved to be Toxic Erythema. All the cases recovered and there were no complications.

The case of Cerebo-Spinal Meningitis was treated by M and B 693, his progress was uneventful and he was discharged fit within a month.

Two cases were notified as Acute Anterior Poliomyelitis and were admitted. After observation one proved to be suffering from Primary Pneumococcal Meningitis and died. The other was thought to be a case of Cerebral Tumour and was transferred to the Prince of Wales Hospital for further investigation.

Diseases.	Total Cases Notified.	Admitted to Hospital.	Deaths.
Primary Pneumococcal			
Meningitis	1	1	1
Cerebral Tumour	1	1	1
	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>
Total	2	2	2

Hospital Cost—£8 7s. 0d.

TUBERCULOSIS.

NEW CASES AND MORTALITY DURING 1938.

New Cases.				Deaths.			
Respiratory.		Non-respiratory.		Respiratory.		Non-respiratory.	
M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.
1	1	—	3	1	—	—	1

Age Period:

5 to 10 years	1
10 to 20	—
20 to 25	—
25 to 35	—
35 to 45	2
45 to 55	1
55 to 70	1

SANITARY CIRCUMSTANCES IN THE AREA.

Water.—The water supply is satisfactory in all respects and there is nothing to add to the previous reports.

The last bacteriological and chemical examination was made on November 24th, 1938.

REPORT ON EXAMINATION OF WATER.

Sanitary District—Kingsbridge Urban.

Source of Sample—Bala Brook.

Place of Sampling—Recreation Grounds Service.

REPORT.

Chemical (Results expressed as parts per 100,000).

Hardness, as calcium carbonate			
Temporary	3.6	Permanent 5.6	Total 9.2
Chlorides, as Chlorine	...	...	1.2
Ammonia, free and saline, as nitrogen			Nil.
Ammonia, Albuminoid, as nitrogen	...		.0038
Nitrates, as nitrogen	...	...	.004
Nitrites, as nitrogen	...	...	Nil.
Oxygen (absorbed 3 hours at 37°C)			0.145
Metals—lead, copper, zinc—absent			
Remarks—Sample clear and free from sediment.			

Bacteriological

Total organisms growing on agar (2 days at 37°C) 10 per c.c.
" " " " (3 days at 20°C) 10 per c.c.
B. Coli present in 50 ml. Absent in —
Probable number of coli-aerogenes per 100 C.C. — 2

Conclusions

This sample is of a satisfactory degree of organic and bacterial purity.

(Signed) T. LAWSON MCEWAN,

County Bacteriologist.

Drainage and Sewerage.—One length of sewer which was liable to blockages was reconstructed. There has been no important extensions and the system generally is satisfactory.

Watercourses.—Referring to my report for the previous year, the Council, by arrangement with certain Owners have undertaken the clearing of sections of the water-courses in the built-up area but there are still some water-courses which are silted up and liable to cause flooding.

Closet Accommodation.—There are no closets on the conservancy system within the built-up area.

Public Cleansing.—The refuse collecting system was re-organised during the year. The Council adopted a standard

bin for use throughout the district and undertook to supply the same under Section 75 (3) of the Public Health Act 1936. Arrangements were also made for the collection of refuse from all backways and passages by means of a sanitary truck and refuse is now collected from all premises in the built-up area twice weekly.

Swimming Baths and Pools.—There are no baths or pools in the area.

Eradication of Bed Bugs.—There were no cases in the district during the year.

Schools.—The sanitary condition and water supply of all public elementary and secondary schools in the district are satisfactory.

Milk Supply.—Much time and attention has been devoted to this question; and improvements have been effected during the year. Many samples have however failed to pass the test for Cleanliness, especially during the summer months. Close co-operation continues with the County and Rural Authorities an every effort has been made to ensure the supply of "clean milk."

HOUSING.

Housing Rural Workers Act—Nil.

1. *Inspection of Dwelling-houses during the year.*

(1) (a)	Total number of dwelling houses inspected for housing defects (under Public Health or Housing Acts)	...	...	...	41
(b)	Number of inspections made for the purpose				54
(2) (a)	Number of dwelling-houses recorded under the Housing Consolidated Regulations, 1925 and 1932	...	...	...	32
(b)	Number of inspections made for the purpose				32
(3)	Number of Houses found to be in a dangerous state	...	...	...	37
(4)	Number of Houses found not to be reasonably fit for human habitation	...	...	...	3

2. *Remedy of defects without service of formal notices.*

Number of defective dwellings rendered fit	3
--	---

3. *Action under Statutory Powers during the year.*

(a)	Proceedings under Sections 9, 10 and 16, Housing Act, 1936	Nil
-----	--	-----	-----	-----	-----

(b)	Proceedings under Public Health Acts	...	Nil
(c)	Proceedings under Sections 11 and 13 Housing Act, 1936.		
(1)	Number of dwelling-houses in respect of which Demolition Orders were made	...	5
(2)	Number of dwelling-houses demolished in pursuance of Demolition Orders	...	1
(d)	Proceedings under section 12 of the Housing Act, 1936	... ..	Nil
4. <i>Housing Act, 1936. Part 4. Overcrowding.</i>			
(a) (1)	Number of dwellings overcrowded at the end of the year	... ..	1
(2)	Number of families dwelling therein	...	1
(3)	Number of persons dwelling therein	...	7
(b)	Number of new cases of overcrowding reported during the year	... ..	Nil
(c) (1)	Number of cases of overcrowding relieved during the year.	... ..	2
(2)	Number of persons concerned in such cases	...	14
(d)	Particulars of any cases in which dwelling-houses have again become overcrowded after the Local Authority have taken steps for the abatement of overcrowding	... ..	Nil

SLUM CLEARANCE.

The Areas were :—

1—9 Devon Square
 1—2 Union Road
 5—5a Duke Street
 1, 2, 3, Annis Place
 40 Ebrington Street

A Ministry of Health Inquiry was held on the 15th June, 1938, and confirmed on 4th October, 1938.

SANITARY INSPECTOR'S REPORT.

For the Year ending December, 1938

Housing.

No. of Houses not in all respects fit for human habitation	41	No. repaired	...	4
No. of Informal Notices	3	No. complied	...	3
Statutory Notices	...	Nil		
Demolition Orders	...	18		
Houses demolished	...	16		
Undertakings given	...	19		
Closing Orders made	...	Nil		
Improvement Areas	...	Nil		
Clearance Areas	...	5	Houses represented	21
New Houses built for the working classes			Sanitary Authority	14
			Private effort	...
				Nil

Housing (Overcrowding).

No. of cases	2	No. remedied	...	2
--------------	-----	-----	---	--------------	-----	---

Food Supply. Milk.—

No. of Cow-keepers or Dairy men on register	...	18
No. registered as producer-retailer	...	6
No. of inspections	...	12
No. registered as producer-wholesaler	...	6
No. of inspections	...	12
No. registered as producer, wholesaler, etc.	...	Nil
No. registered as retailer only	...	7
No. of inspections	...	7
No. removed from register	...	Nil
Found Satisfactory		
No. of samples taken : Cleanliness	54	22
Tuberculosis	15	15
Food and Drugs	Nil	
No. of cowsheds with Defective floors	...	1
Unsatisfactory drainage	...	2
Bad lighting	...	2
Bad ventilation	...	2
Unsatisfactory water supply		1

Methods for producing clean milk are fairly satisfactory.

Bakehouses.—No. in district, 5 ; No. of inspections, 5.

Slaughterhouses.—No. Registered, Nil; Licensed, 3 ; Public, Nil.

No. of Inspections, 16.

Notice of slaughtering being duly carried out.

No. killed (approximately)—Beasts, 508 ; Calves, 25 ; Sheep, 1794 ; Pigs, 478.

Amount of Unfit Food Destroyed :—

	Tuberculosis	Other Diseases	Total
Beef	—	65 bs.	65 lbs.
Pork	136 lbs.	—	136 lbs.
Mutton	—	—	—
Offals	28 lbs.	—	28 lbs.
Totals	164 lbs.	65	229 lbs.

Method of disposal of condemned meat—Burnt.

Other unfit foods condemned—4 cwt. 43 lbs.

Water Supply.—There are no public wells. The water supply is satisfactory.

FACTORIES INSPECTIONS.

Particulars.	No. Found.	Remedied.
Want of Cleanliness.	2	2
Sanitary Conveniences— unsuitable or defective.	1	1

Premises	Number of		
	Inspections	Written Notices	Occupiers Prosecuted
Factories without mechanical power	3	3	Nil.

INFECTIOUS DISEASE AND DISINFECTION.

Investigation is made as soon as possible into all cases of Infectious Diseases notified and disinfection carried out.

The methods of disinfection employed for Clothing, Bedding, Rooms, Furniture, etc., is by Formaldehyde Spray.

No. of houses disinfected :—

Notifiable Infectious Diseases	...	11
Tuberculosis	...	Nil
Other Infectious Diseases	...	Nil
Verminous Conditions	...	Nil
Other cases	...	2

Sputum Cups are not supplied.

Diphtheria Anti-toxin and Scarlatinal Serum is supplied.

Overcrowding.—No. of cases, 2. No. remedied, 2.

Drainage.—The drainage system is satisfactory.

Scavenging.—The methods for the disposal of refuse are satisfactory.

Arrangements have been made for the removal and destruction of refuse.

Refuse tips are managed in accordance with the suggestions of the Ministry of Health.

Rats and Mice Destruction Act.—Free poison is distributed under the Rats and Mice Destruction Act, 1919.

Noxious and Offensive Trades.—None in the district.

Nuisances.—

No. of complaints received	...	10		
No. of informal notices served	4		Results effective,	4
Statutory Notices served	...	1	„	„ 1

Pollution of Rivers.—No action taken or necessary.

Schools.—No. in District, 5. No. inspected, 5.

No. found defective, 1.

Informal notices served, 1.

Results effective, 1.

Bye-Laws in Force.—New Streets and Buildings.

Nuisances.

Clearing of footpaths

House Refuse.

Slaughterhouses.

Your Obedient Servant,

W. C. SMALES,

June, 1939.

Medical Officer of Health.

